

HI-PLAINS SCHOOL DISTRICT R-23

DISTRICT OFFICE
Hi-Plains Elementary School
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Steven McCracken
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Received & Inspected
DEC 13 2010
FCC Mail Room

December 7, 2010

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary;
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Request for Review
FCC Docket/Proceeding Number: 02-6
FCC Confirmation Number: 2010.12.01 ECBOCES FCC Appeal
Billing Entity: East Central BOCES
Billed Entity Number (BEN): 142296
Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN): 143025872
Filing Date: December 1, 2010

Dear Ms. Dortch,

The Hi-Plains School District is a member of the East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services' consortium for E-rate services. Our school is a part of the Video Network for Educational and Training Services (V-NETS) system that originates from the ECBOCES office in Limon Colorado. It is my understanding that the E-rate application has been denied for the past two years. Considering this fact, I would like to provide you some information on how devastating the denial of the E-rate application would be for our school and community.

The Hi-Plains School District R-23 serves students in grades Pre-K through 12. Our school is characterized as isolated, small, rural, low income. Hi-Plains School District R-23 is located in the Seibert and Vona communities along the east I-70 corridor 120 miles east of Denver. The district covers nearly 510 square miles and includes farming and ranching as the primary industries. In addition to providing our students with a challenging and exciting curriculum and learning activities that value each one's unique talents and interests, we are focused on specific teaching techniques that will encourage our students to succeed. One avenue we use is the distance learning opportunities provided by our V-NET system. Greater than 90% of our 11th and 12th grade students take advantage of the advanced placement classes, foreign language classes, post-secondary classes, and other unique opportunities that the V-NETS system provides for our students.

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The concept of "universal service" has traditionally meant providing residential telephone subscribers with nationwide access to basic service at reasonable rates. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 broadened the scope of universal service to include, among other things, support for schools and libraries. The act was meant to ensure schools and libraries have affordable access to and use of certain telecommunications services for educational purposes. The denial of the ECBOCES E-rate applications could be deemed in violation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Repayment of \$220,000 for our portion of past E-Rate applications would be financially devastating to our school district. This would eliminate jobs for our staff, programs such as transportation, food service, music, band, and physical education. The repayment would also eliminate the V-NETS opportunities we have for our school including internet access for each building.

When considering the appeal, consider the impact your decision would have on students, staff, and the communities that are involved. I encourage you to grant the appeals and rescind the decision to deny the E-Rate applications for the East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

Sincerely,



Steven McCracken, Superintendent
Hi-Plains School District R-23